image
5
JOINES • KOTZ • RILEY • PRITCHETT
Krampus!

Previously in

Krampus!

'Twas fourth issue of KRAMPUS!, the second to last
If you were planning on dropping us, that time has passed.
It began in the desert, where there on display
Was the corpse of Mos Cracium, all rotted away.
The Krampus tried warning the Santas posthaste
But Doc Holiday's efforts lay those plans to waste.
With his singing horse Mari Lwyd, who's into pop songs
(To which we lack rights, so we're chockfull of wrongs),
Doc captured the Krampus, who conceded defeat
And was taken by both to a volcanic retreat.
While at the North Pole, the deception congealed
As Mos Gerila, the villain, made himself revealed.
An ex-member rejected by the Santa elite,
He fled to the jungle where the Krampus he'd meet.
It was at that location where the monster he pitched
"Let's partner together, make the Santas our bitch."
Meanwhile, lupine Stutgaard, who'd been left for dead,
Flew back to the North Pole and the Santas instead.
The Krampus was stoic, from his task he'd not bail
'Til Gerila's dark magic made the Naughty Bomb fail.
The Krampus agreed and Gerila complied
And used Old Man Winter to snow death from the sky.
The big plan's in motion! Will any survive?
Check out this last issue, aka KRAMPUS! Five.

written by **BRIAN JOINES**
illustrated by **DEAN KOTZ**
colors by **RON RILEY**
letters by **CHARLES PRITCHETT**

"Ventura Highway"
By Dewey Bunnell
© Warner Bros. Records

IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman – Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane – President
Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice-President
Eric Stephenson – Publisher
Ron Richards – Director of Business Development
Jennifer de Guzman – Director of Trade Book Sales
Kat Salazar – Director of PR & Marketing
Jeremy Sullivan – Director of Digital Sales
Emilio Bautista – Sales Assistant
Branwyn Bigglestone – Senior Accounts Manager
Emily Miller – Accounts Manager
Jessica Ambriz – Administrative Assistant
Tyler Shainline – Events Coordinator
David Brothers – Content Manager
Jonathan Chan – Production Manager
Drew Gill – Art Director
Meredith Wallace – Print Manager
Monica Garcia – Senior Production Artist
Jenna Savage – Production Artist
Addison Duke – Production Artist
Tricia Ramos – Production Assistant
IMAGECOMICS.COM

KRAMPUS #5. May 2014. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2001 Center Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2014 Brian Joines & Dean Kotz. All rights reserved. Krampus™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Brian Joines & Dean Kotz, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. DIGITAL EDITION. For international rights inquiries, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com

YESSS!
REACH INTO THE CLOUDS... RIP OPEN THE SKY...
...AND STRANGLE THE WORLD IN YOUR ICY GRIP!
WELL, ZIS IS CERTAINLY FAR LESS JOLLY ZAN I'D ANTICIPATED...

FLIKIT! RAMPART! REPORT!
THOSE AREN'T OUR NAMES.
SHHH!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S WORKING, MOS GERILA!
"REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM EVERYWHERE! DEADLY BLIZZARDS, FREAK SNOWSTORMS, ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE!"
"THE EGGHEADS ARE LOSING THEIR SHIT AND THE BIBLE-THUMPERS THINK IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD."
"SO, YOU KNOW, THE USUAL."
"FOLKS ARE CALLING IT THE DAWN OF THE NEW ICE AGE."
OOH! I HOPE WE SEE A MAMMOTH!
YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW THIS WORKS, DO YOU?
EXCELLENT. SOON THE WORLD WILL KNOW MY TRUE POWER.
ZEE WORLD?

I ZOUGHT ZIS WAS ABOUT REVENGE ON ZEE SANTAS.
WHY MAKE WITH ZEE POLAR VORTEX WHEN MANY OF ZEE SANTAS WORK IN TROPICAL CLIMATES?
DO NOT FRET, MY DEAR KRAMPUS...
...MY MOTIVATIONS REMAIN PURE. INDEED, THEY ARE MORE FOCUSED NOW THAN EVER.
THE SNOW IS PART OF THE LARGER PICTURE. IT IS WHY WE NEEDED OLD MAN WINTER.
WHEN THE SOCIETY FORCED ME OUT, THE PEOPLE DID NOT CARE; THEY SIMPLY EMBRACED MOS CRACIUN, AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.
NO ATTENTION WAS PAID TO MY SUFFERING. I WAS A MEANS TO AN END, ONE THAT WAS QUICKLY REPLACED.
AND IT GAVE ME PAUSE... HOW MANY SEE THE SANTAS AS MERE VESSELS OF AVARICE? HOW MANY THROW CHILDREN AT STRANGE LAPS AND THINK THEIR WORK DONE?
THAT TIME IS AT AN END. THOSE WHO FEEL THEMSELVES WORTHY OF MY GIFTS, THEY WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MAN, NOT THE MYTH...
...AND ALL WILL BOW BEFORE ME!
NOW, I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. KEEP AN EYE ON THE OLD MAN...

"...AND MAKE CERTAIN HE CONTINUES TO STORM."
TARNATION!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP, BUT I HAD NO IDEA THIS'D BE THE RESULT! BEST WE KEEP MOVING.
HOPEFULLY WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO THE BAR BEFORIN' IT GETS WORSE.
♫CHEWIN' ON A PIECE OF GRASS, WALKING DOWN THE ROAD. TELL ME, HOW LONG YOU GONNA STAY HERE, JOE? SOME PEOPLE SAY THIS TOWN DON'T LOOK GOOD IN SNOW...♫
♫YOU DON'T CARE. I KNOW.♫
THAT AIN'T FAIR! YOU KNOW I DON'T GET INVOLVED! I JUST--
WAIT.
ARE YOU SINGING YACHT ROCK?! YOU DON'T NEVER SING YACHT ROCK UNLESS IT'S IMPORTANT!
♫VENTURA HIGHWAY, IN THE SUNSHINE.♫
♫WHERE THE DAYS ARE LONGER, THE NIGHTS ARE STRONGER THAN MOONSHINE...
YOU'RE GONNA GO. I KNOW-OH-WHOA-OH-WHO A-OH-WHOA-OH-WHOA-OH WHOA-OH-WHOA...♫
I...
HELL.

HELLO, MOS GERILA. I TRUST EVENTS ARE PROCEEDING AS PLANNED?
THEY ARE, MY FRIEND! ALL OF THE MAGICKS YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, ALL OF THE SECRET HISTORIES OF THE SANTAS... IT HAS ALL LED TO THIS.
THE WORLD WILL SOON BE IN A PERMANENT FROZEN STATE, PER OUR AGREEMENT.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND...
...IT IS TIME YOU SHARE THE SPELL TO BESTOW ME WITH THE FULL POWER OF THE SANTAS!
AFTER ALL, THE SANTAS ARE DOOMED, THE KRAMPUS HAS BEEN SWAYED TO OUR SIDE...
...WE HAVE ALREADY WON.
MMMMM... NO.
WE NEED TO ENSURE OUR VICTORY BEFORE WE START CELEBRATING.
NO, I DEMAND IT NOW! AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU-- HELLO?
HELLO?!
BAH! PETTY DICTATOR PRIMA DONNA. WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM...
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY ZAT...

...I WAS ZINKING ZEE VERY SAME ZING!
GUHHH!
YOU HAVE SOLD ME A BILL OF LUNATIC GOODS, GERILA. ALL OF ZIS... ZEE GLOBAL DOMINATION, ZEE GENUFLECTING BEFORE YOU...
YOU DO NOT WANT REVENGE ON ZEE SANTAS...
...YOU WANT REVENGE ON ZEE WORLD.
AND WHILE I UNDERSTAND ZEE JOY OF HAVING ZEE WEAK COWER BEFORE YOU...
...YOU INCLUDED ME IN ZAT GROUP.
AND ZEE KRAMPUS BOWS TO NO MAN!
WE ARE DONE.
THEN YOU HAVE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS BEFORE IT HAS EVEN BEGUN, MY FRIEND.
SUGAR-PLUM FAIRIES...

"...KILL THE KRAMPUS!"
MAYBE HE'S DEAD.
PERHAPS GERILA KILLED THE KRAMPUS AND NOW THE WOLF SEEKS A NEW MASTER.
AT LEAST SOMETHING GOOD WOULD COME OF THIS.
UNBELIEVABLE, SINTERKLAAS. THE WORLD IS FALLING APART, YET YOU STILL--
ENOUGH! BOTH OF YOU!
LOOK AT HIS EYES. STUTGAARD IS NOT MOURNING THE KRAMPUS'S LOSS..
...HE IS DESPERATE TO HELP HIM!
PERHAPS WE CAN--
WHAT--?
THE BONES! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO SAINT NICHOLAS'S BONES!
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED!
BABA CHAGHALOO, SEE IF OUR POWERS--
I AM NOT GOING UP THAT CHIMNEY AGAIN.
WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THIS LATER!
RIGHT NOW, THE KRAMPUS NEEDS OUR HELP...

"...AND GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT KINDS OF TERRORS HE'S FACING."

OH, LOOK... A GAGGLE OF ***FRUIT BATS*** WANTS TO KILL ME.

LET ME KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO ***PANIC.***

YOU ***SADDEN*** ME, MOS GERILA.

ALL OF YOUR POSTURING OF AFFECTING CHANGE, YET YOU HIDE BEHIND ZESE ***PIXIE DICKS.***

IT'S EASY TO ZROTTLE AN ***OLD*** MAN AND DITCH HIS BODY, BUT WHEN ZEE PUSH COMES TO ZEE SHOVE, TAKE IT FROM ME.

IF YOU WANT TO MOTIVATE ZEE PEOPLE...

MMMPHH!

...ZEN YOU NEED TO GET YOUR ***HANDS*** DIRTY.

PERHAPS...

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.
RECOGNIZE THE STAFF? IT BELONGED TO YOUR OLD FRIEND BELSNICKEL.
IT WAS A GIFT FROM THE FAIRIES; A SOUVENIR SIGNIFYING THE END OF THE SANTAS' RULE...
...AND THE START OF A NEW WORLD ORDER.
SADLY, MUCH LIKE YOURSELF, IT IS A BLUNT INSTRUMENT. IT LACKS THE FINESSE THAT COMES WITH A GOOD STABBING.
FORTUNATELY, I'VE TAKEN THAT DEPARTMENT INTO ACCOUNT.
PLEASE. I HAVE ALREADY DEFEATED ZEE NUTCRACKER AND HE HAD A REAL SWORD. ZESE PATHETIC TOOTHPICKS WILL BARELY BREAK ZEE SURFACE!
TRUE...BUT THAT IS THE POINT.
HELLS YEAH! I'M FINALLY GETTING MY FUR COAT ON!
WHADDAYA SAY, KRAMPUS...
...GIVE ME SOME SKIN.

AWWP--!
WHO ZEE--?
♫'CAUSE THE FREE WIND IS BLOWING THROUGH YOUR HAIR. AND THE DAYS SURROUND YOUR DAYLIGHT THERE. SEASONS CRYING, NO DESPAIR. ALLIGATORS, LIZARDS IN THE AIR. IN THE AIR...♫
HOLIDAY!

STILL SHOOTING PEOPLE IN ZEE BACK, I SEE.
WELL, NEXT TIME I'LL MOSEY 'ROUND THE FRONT, SO HE SEES IT COMING RIGHT AFTER HE'S SKINNED YOU ALIVE.
YOUR POINT IS TAKEN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I ZOUGHT ZEE GREAT DOC HOLIDAY WAS ABOVE PICKING SIDES.
YOU CAN THANK MY THERAPIST FOR THAT.
BESIDES, A CHANCE TO SEE THE MIGHTY KRAMPUS TAKEN DOWN BY A BUNCH OF BOGIES IN LAVENDER PINAFORES?
I WOULDN'T MISS THAT FOR THE WORLD.
OH, I SEE... ZEE CHECK BOUNCED.
YOU-- HOLD UP.
IS IT ME OR DID THOSE THINGS VAMANOS A BIT TOO QUICK-LIKE?
CLEARLY, ZEY WERE OUTMATCHED AND--
YEAH...

...I'M THINKING THE KEY WORD THERE MAY'VE BEEN "WERE."

NO MERCY, SUGAR PLUMS! BRING ME THAT SKULL!

IN FACT, BRING ME *ALL* THE SKULLS.

I DON'T THINK THIS IS A CORRAL WE CAN WALK AWAY FROM, KRAMPUS!

I AM *WORKING* ON IT! HOLD ZEM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN...

...AND DAMN YOU, GERILA, FOR FORCING ME TO DO ZIS.

OKAY, SANTAS. YOU MAY HAVE YOUR POWERS BACK.

DO YOU HEAR? I BESTOW ZEE POWER BACK UPON YOU!

YOU ARE A FOOL, KRAMPUS! EVEN IF THAT WORKED, WE ARE *SHIELDED* FROM THE SOCIETY! THEY WILL NEVER FIND US HERE!

TRUE, *NORMALLY* ZEY WOULD NOT.

BUT, IF ZEY ARE FLYING WITH ZEE RIGHT KIND OF STEED...

WHUFF! WHUFF!

...WHAT IS TO STOP ZEM FROM COMING DOWN ZEE BIGGEST CHIMNEY OF ZEM ALL?
MOS GERILA...
...I WOULD RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST YOU COME WITH US.
FORGET THE KRAMPUS! STOP THE SANTAS! STOP THEM AT ALL COSTS!
WELL THAT SEEMS PREDICTABLE. KANAKALOKA?
ALREADY AHEAD OF YOU, VASILIS.
OKAY, LITTLE KUPUAS...

...GO DO YOUR THING.
RRAAAGH!
HOTEIOSHO! IT WOULD SEEM YOU HAVE ARRIVED IN ZEE OVERLY CLICHÉD NICK OF TIME.
DON'T THANK US, KRAMPUS...
WERE IT NOT FOR STUTGAARD PICKING UP YOUR SCENT, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND YOU.
BESIDES, WE SHOULD THANK YOU FOR RETURNING OUR ABILITIES, DESPITE FREEING YOURSELF FROM THE NAUGHTY BOMB.
ACTUALLY, ZAT WAS MOS GERILA.
HE'S ACQUIRED SOME OF YOUR POWERS AND WAS ABLE TO--
WAIT A MINUTE...

"...WHERE IS MOS GERILA?"

HELLO?

PLEASE, I NEED YOUR HELP! EVERYTHING HAS GONE TO ***SHIT!***

THE KRAMPUS ***TURNED*** ON ME, THE SANTAS ARE BACK TO FULL POWER, AND I'VE LOST SAINT NICHOLAS'S ***BONES***!

HELLO!?

DAMMIT!

NO BOTHER. I SHALL FIND A DIFFERENT ROUTE TO POWER AND GAIN VENGEANCE ON ***ALL*** WHO BETRAYED ME.

THEY SHALL COME TO RUE THE DAY THEY CROSSED MOS GERILA.

WHY WAIT?

LET US MAKE WITH ZEE *RUING* NOW!

YOU WOUND ME, GERILA... LEAVING WITHOUT SAYING ZEE PROPER GOODBYES AND WHATNOT.
IT WOULD ALMOST SEEM YOU ARE EMBARRASSED BY ZEE SHEER TOTALITY OF YOUR FAILURE.
STILL, YOU HAVE DONE SOME ZINGS ZAT YOU MUST TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR.
"HELD ACCOUNTABLE"?! BY WHO, YOU?
YOU, WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME ABUSE AS I BUT ARE HERE TO RETRIEVE ME LIKE SOME KIND OF PUPPY?
YOU ARE PATHETIC.
YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, GERILA...
...WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT TAKING YOU BACK?
WHA--? THE NAUGHTY BOMB?!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MY TATTOO? YOUR PITIFUL CONCEPTS OF NAUGHTY AND NICE...
...THEY ARE BENEATH ME.
I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO ZOSE "PITIFUL CONCEPTS." I WAS LOCKED UP, MY BELIEF WAS SO ABSOLUTE.
YOU ZINK YOURSELF ABOVE ZEE NAUGHTY LIST?

I AM ZEE NAUGHTY LIST!

AAAHH!

NAUGHTY BOMB ARMED.

WELL, SOMEBODY OUGHT TO BE.

AUF WIEDERSEHEN, MOS GERILA.

I LEAVE YOU WITH ZIS, TO PONDER IN YOUR FINAL MOMENTS...

YOU PROBABLY COULD HAVE BEEN NICER.

NO...

DETONATION IN 3...

...2...

...1.

NOOO!

I HOPE THE KRAMPUS WASN'T UP THERE FOR THAT.
DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF, HOLIDAY. KNOWING THE KRAMPUS, NOT ONLY WAS FREE OF THE BLAST...
...ODDS ARE HE WAS THE CAUSE OF IT, TOO.
THE BONES!
DO YOU HAVE THE BONES?!
WE GATHERED WHAT WE COULD FIND, SINTERKLAAS, BUT THE SKULL IS MISSING.
I SAW THE KRAMPUS WITH THAT SKULL. HE USED IT TO--
OF COURSE HE HAS THE SKULL! AND NOW HE HAS LEVERAGE OVER US!
YOU SEE, CHRISTMAS? I TOLD YOU HE WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED!
WE NEED TO TRACK THE KRAMPUS DOWN AND--
TINK
WELL, FATHER CHRISTMAS?
I...THINK WE CAN GIVE THE KRAMPUS A PASS ON THIS ONE.
HEH.

Bari, Italy - One Week Later
AND WITH ZAT, IT WAS OVER.
MOS GERILA WAS DEAD, ZEE BONES OF SAINT NICHOLAS HAD BEEN RETURNED...
...AND I HAD A WAY OUT FROM UNDER ZEE SANTAS' THUMB.
WITH ZEE SKULL DROPPED OFF, STUTGAARD FLEW DUE NORTH, LANDING IN LOS ANGELES NEAR A LOCAL TATTOO PARLOR.
"GERILA'S ARM HAD KEPT US UNDER ZEE SANTAS' RADAR, SO WE DECIDED TO MAKE ZAT PARTICULAR ARRANGEMENT PERMANENT."
SEE? ZEE PERFECT REPLICA.
ZEE SANTAS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND ME, WHETHER I BE SLEEPING OR WHETHER I BE AWAKE.
PER FAVORE... PER FAVORE...
WHAT WAS ZAT? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ZEE OTHERS? WELL...

"OLD MAN WINTER NEVER FULLY RECOVERED. I HEAR JACK RETURNED TO PERMAFROST TO OVERSEE HIS FATHER'S CARE."
"I SUSPECT ZIS IS NOT ZEE LAST I HAVE HEARD FROM ZAT FAMILY."
"ON ZEE OTHER HAND, BELSNICKEL AWOKE A FEW DAYS LATER, ALL BUT RECOVERED FROM ZEE BEATING HE RECEIVED AT ZEE HANDS OF ZEE SUGAR-PLUM FAIRIES."
"BELSNICKEL ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM ZEE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES..."
"...AND ZEIR NEW LEADER, HOTEIOSHO, TO REPLACE MOS CRACIUN AS ZEE SANTA OF ROMANIA."
"HE WAS SWORN IN ALONG WITH ZEE OTHER NEW RECRUITS."
SANTO CLÓS OF MEXICO, WELCOME TO THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES.
"AND WHILE I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ZEE WHEREABOUTS OF DOC HOLIDAY..."
"...I WOULD GUESS HE IS OUT DOING ZAT WHICH HE IS BEST AT."

AND ZAT BRINGS ZINGS BACK TO US, MY YOUNG FRIEND.
<PLEASE, MISTER MONSTER! LET ME GO! I PROMISE I'LL BE GOOD! I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING...>
CEASE WITH ZEE WHIMPERING, PAOLO. I WAS IN ZEE HOSPITAL WHEN YOU TORMENTED YOUR SISTER. YOU ARE ZEE LAST LOOSENED END I HAVE TO TIE UP.
BESIDES, I DO NOT SPEAK IN ZEE ITALIAN.
I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU, STUTGAARD... ZAT FELT GOOD.
ZOUGH IT DAWNS ON ME I WAS NOT QUITE CORRECT... ZERE IS ONE MORE LOOSE END.
"WHY DID MOS GERILA WANT TO BURY ZEE WORLD IN SNOW?"
AH, WELL... WHATEVER INSANE PLANS GERILA HAD DIED WITH HIM.
NOW COME, STUTGAARD! LET US GO EXPLORE ZIS WORLD... PERHAPS ONE OF ZESE KRAMPUSNACHT BALLS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT.
IT WOULD SEEM MY BRAND IS ON ZEE RISE...

The South Pole

"...AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ZEE FUTURE HAS IN STORE?"

YOU CALL YOURSELVES SUGAR-PLUMS?! YOU GUYS ARE A *DISGRACE!*

YOU'VE HAD OVER A WEEK AND LOOK AT HIM... NO CLOSER TO BEING FINISHED THAN HE WAS WHEN WE BROUGHT HIM IN!

MAYBE WE JUST SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM WHERE HE *LANDED.*

A BIT *HARD* ON THEM, DON'T YOU THINK?

YEAH? WELL, SO WHAT IF I AM?!

I'M--I'M SORRY. WE HAD SO MUCH RIDING ON MOS GERILA AND WE WERE *SO* CLOSE.

AND AFTER EVERYTHING WE LOST FIGHTING THE KRAMPUS, TO HAVE THEM JUST SIT ON THEIR ASSES, DOING NOTHING--

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE; I SHARE YOUR FRUSTRATION. GERILA'S FAILURE WAS A TREMENDOUS SETBACK.

BUT DON'T YOU CRY...

...WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN SOMEDAY.
THE END... FOR NOW.

Guten tag, everyone, and welcome to this, the final issue of the first series of KRAMPUS! *I'll discuss the future of the book in a bit, but first, the letters!*

March can't get here fast enough. What a shock at the end with Mos Craciun. Also, something calling itself the Spirit of the Season and can give eternal life was badass. The writing/art is getting me excited for the holiday season and we are just starting spring.

I knew I liked Doc Holiday. The memory sequence cracked me up and left me with a ton of questions that I look forward to being reveled in later comics. The confrontation between Krampus and Holiday did not disappoint and makes me look forward to future confrontations.

Krampus is entertaining for a comic that I picked up because of the name. I forgot how engaging and entertaining comics could be. I am now into comics again thanks to Krampus. I am actively excited for the next installment.

Colin Orr

Thanks, Colin! I'm glad you dug the tussle between Krampus and Doc Holiday and, now that the story is over, hope you liked the even bigger battle between Krampus and Mos Gerila. And that's awesome the book managed to retrigger your love of comics! With so many great books out there waiting to be read, I'm sure you'll have your work cut out for you.

Krampus always goes on the top of the pile when my pull list box arrives in the mail. It is genius, hilarious, and more fun than any other comic right now. You dudes rock!

David Foley

Thanks, David! I'm glad enjoy the book and appreciate the fun nature we're attempting to generate with it. I've always been a big fan of books with a slightly broader and upbeat vibe about them. There's nothing wrong with books being dark and maudlin, but there are so many of those out there now that it can all be a bit overwhelming. We wanted to do something fun and energetic and funny to stand apart from all of that and I'm very happy we accomplished it.

And now, one last time, our good friend Maficklin returns!

Another gratifying issue.

Hall of Enemies Roll Call:

Krampus
Mos Gerila
Mouse King
Frau Perchta (per letter column)
Namahage (per letter column)
Jacob Marley
Mother Ginger
King of the Wind Demons

Impressive gallery. Impressive research and creativity. I'm not going to be able to watch the Nutcracker the same way. Your world-building is not slowing in this issue.

I would be surprised if Klaubauf is not in the Hall since Krampus and Namahage are (unless he, like Belsnikel, agreed

to work for the Santas). I suspect the ogress Gryla and her Yule Cat are also are also depicted in that hall. I am interested in Perchta and Ginger and am glad this is not an all boys club. (I've just noticed no mention of any Mrs. Claus, Madame Noel or etcetera.) I am most interested in your vision for Père Fouettard and he's surely in the gallery as well.

Now onto the issue. 1) Loved the Xmas expletives! Hilarious. 2) Belsnikel worked as an assassin for the Santa Society. Interesting. I can not say I feel sorry for his targets considering their armed invasion of Santas' Workshop. I did not expect this. 3) Poor Father Winter. Betrayed. Sadly, Krampus is powerless versus Mos Gerila. Last time Krampus defied those with the bones of Saint Nicholas, he was imprisoned for fifty years; Gerila is a killer. 4) Holliday seems to be developing a conscious. Too little and too late. I still like Doc as a character but he's been around over a century; he's had time to do a lot of thinking before now. Plus, he threatened Stutgaard. 5) Mari Lwyd and Stutgaard are great.

Looking forward to the next issue. The plot is accelerating!

Maficklin

Well, here we are at the final issue and I hope it lived up to your expectations. I've been enjoying your reactions to the research and reading about diving into the research yourself. You've certainly given me food for thought on a few fronts for potential future storylines.

As to your questions/comments, I'm glad you approve of the line-up of the Hall of Enemies. I haven't put too much thought into where folks like Klaubauf have landed in terms of pro- or anti-Secret Society, as I want to hold those cards for a Krampus family reunion storyline sometime in the future. There is a tentative plan for Gryla so she's not in the Hall, nor is the Yule Cat (who was in the running to be Doc Holiday's steed, but the idea of a singing skeletal horse was too good to pass up). And, yes, the structure of the first series didn't really allow any time to address the story of Mrs. Claus or Madame Noel, but that is something I hope to get to someday.

And as you now see, Holiday developed a conscience just in time, Old Man Winter survived, although a bit worse for the wear, and the Krampus made his stand against Mos Gerila, showing that while the Krampus doesn't like the Santas and punishes wicked children, he's actually not an evil character and did the right thing in the end; Mos Gerila was just too damaged to ever come back from it all.

And I'm curious to see what you think of Gerila's partner/benefactor!
And finally, our last letter:

Just had to write to tell you how much I am loving Krampus! I had discovered the story of him last year and had just decided to put in some serious research into this mythos in order to fabricate a Krampus costume. My husband surprised me by bringing home Krampus! #1 and I have been hooked ever since. I love the puns and the one- liners, best of all is the complete trouncing of most of the stupid holiday traditions that have kept most of us in bondage since childhood!

I cannot imagine where you are going to go after this story arch completes, but I am waiting anxiously. (Any way you could have him destroy a holiday brunch of Eggs Benedict? It would make my life complete!)

A dedicated fan,
Artemis Kalliste

Hah! This is the perfect letter to go out on, Artemis, as it was the frustrations with the

same old holiday trappings that inspired the idea for this series in the first place. I'm glad the story resonated with you and hopefully it proved cathartic in some way! And when he does make a return, I'll see what I can do about having him trash some Eggs Benedict. Thanks for reading and being a fan!

And so that brings us to the end of this, our first Krampus story. Now, let's talk about the future…

As I write this, it's Easter Sunday, and obviously there have been no new KRAMPUS! books solicited beyond this one. The reality of the situation is that sales on the book have not been great. It debuted fairly strong, being a Christmas-themed book at Christmas, but as we moved away from that holiday the numbers dropped quite a bit. There are any number of factors that could be part of it: the tone/comedy wasn't for everyone, the usual attrition that comes from the first issue to the second, folks being "over" Christmas as the months passed; there's also the fact that many places sold out of the book and there was not a second-printing, which means potential readers may have been put into a trade-waiting scenario. Whatever the case, it brought us to where we are now… which is something of a question mark.

Dean and I certainly have more stories we'd like to tell about the Krampus and this world we've created for him, but it's a matter of figuring it all out. Even as our sales went down, the awareness of him surged, with appearances on television shows, articles and write-ups in various magazines, and now a Kevin Smith anthology film that may happen. So it would be a shame to walk away and not capitalize on that, especially with the trade likely coming out somewhere around near the holidays. The question is how do we bridge that gap? A shorter mini-series, more closely timed to the holiday season? A one-shot for December? These are all things we've thought about. It's just a matter of determining how viable it really is.

I would love to be able to tell you to check back with us in October or November or December to see the Krampus's next adventure…as I've said before, I have a storyline in mind incorporating various holiday legends and folklore that would be a killer…but we'll have to wait and see. The July 2014 solicitations for Image's books should be hitting in the next week or two, so we certainly have a few more months to determine our next course of action.

In the interim, I want to thank my partners in crime: Ron Riley, who brought so much of the world to life with his amazing colors; Charles Pritchett, who took my verbose scripts and Dean's tight layouts and made it all flow together beautifully; and especially Dean Kotz, my partner in crime, who pretty much invested body and soul into this project to give it a look that could be both murky and bright, grim and happy, without ever making the transitions too overt. He's an artist that's going places, I promise you.

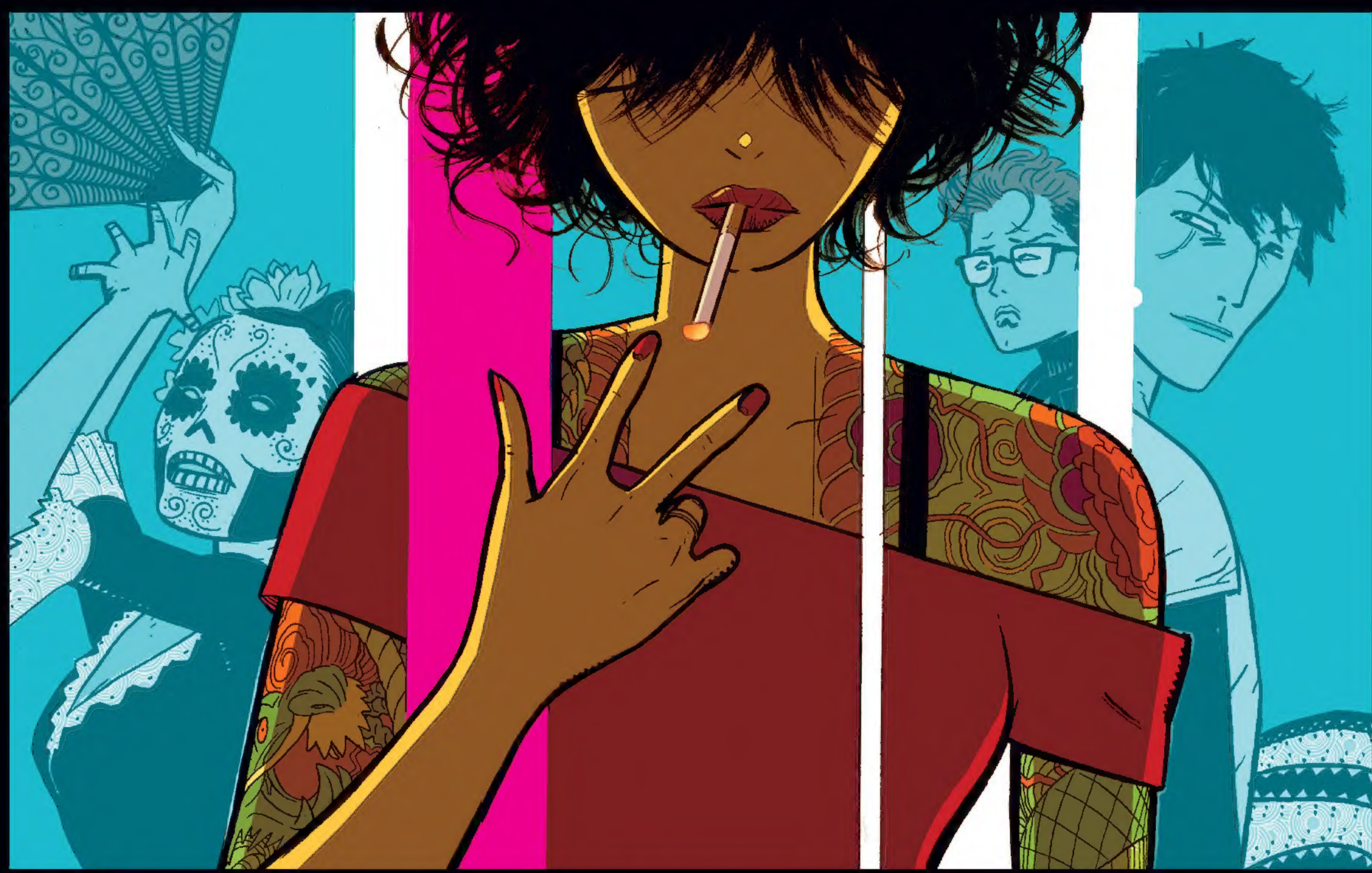
Finally, I want to thank everyone who took a chance to pick up the book and hope you had as much fun reading it as I did writing and putting it all together. Meeting some of you at the shows and getting your emails and Facebook/ Twitter messages have meant the world to me. I've got another book in the works at Image, possibly two, and I hope you'll check those out when they're announced and hit the shelves. And, of course, in a perfect world, I'll see you back here in a few months, in the pages of a brand new Krampus book.

Keep with zee fingers and zee crossings, no?

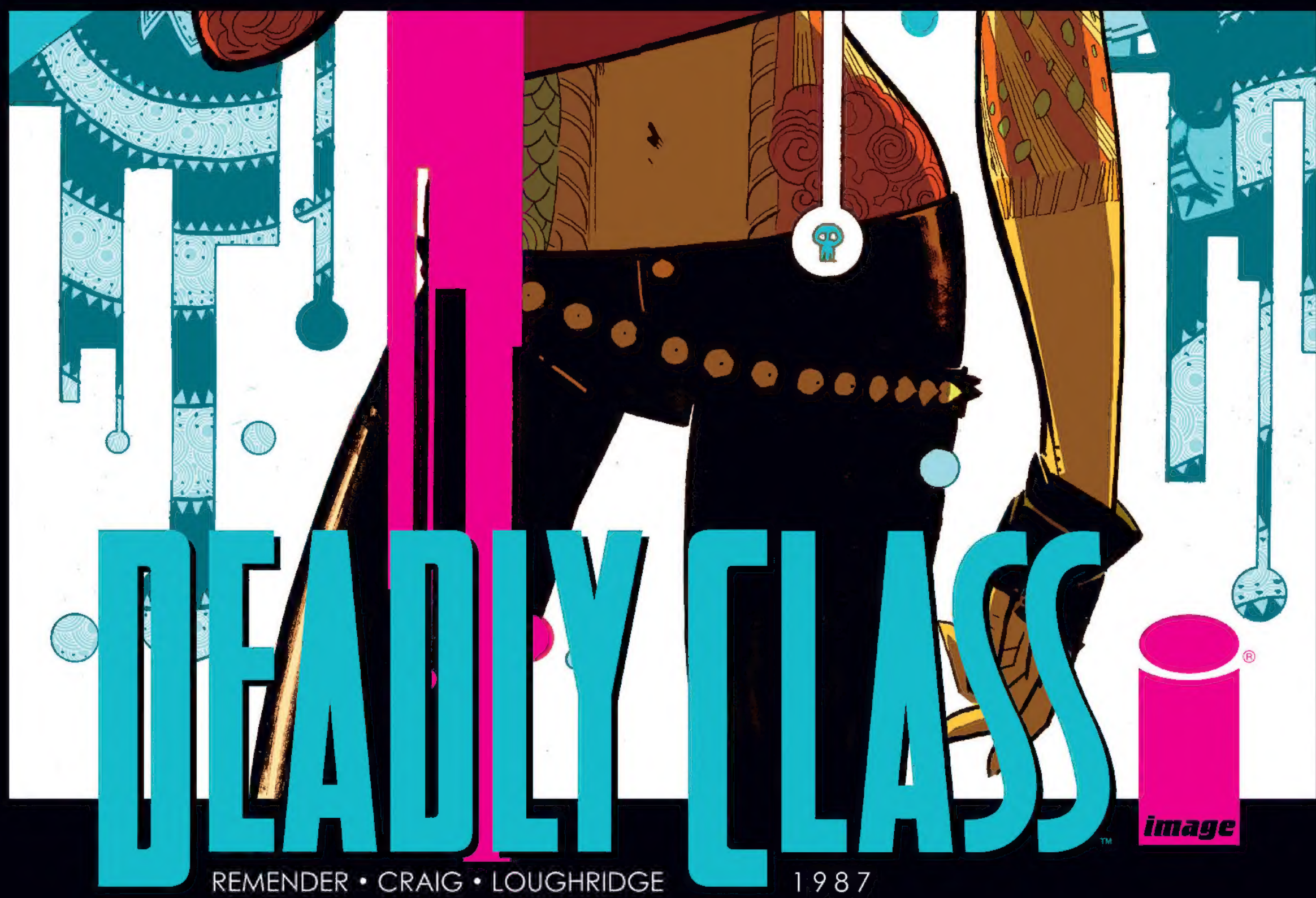
Auf Wiedersehen for now,

Brian Joines
Portland, OR
4/20/14

AT KINGS DOMINION SCHOOL FOR THE DEADLY ARTS,
CUTTING CLASS CAN BE **KILLER.**



IN A HIGH SCHOOL FULL OF ASSASSINS-IN-TRAINING,
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?



REMENDER • CRAIG • LOUGHRIDGE 1987

VOLUME ONE • JULY 2014

IMAGECOMICS.COM

Deadly Class™ © 2014 Rick Remender. All rights reserved. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.

I IS FOR INFECTIOUS

THE WALKING DEAD • IMAGECOMICS.COM

Copyright © 2014 Image Comics, Inc. The Walking Dead™ © Robert Kirkman, LLC. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

USER'S GUIDE TO THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES

1. Father Christmas.....United Kingdom
2. Weihnachtsmann.....Germany
3. Hoteiosho.....Japan
4. Sinterklaas.....Netherlands
5. Agios Vassilis.....Greece
6. Baba Chaghaloo .....Afghanistan
7. Mos Craciun.....Romania
8. Ded Moroz.....Russia
9. Kaghand Papik.....Armenia
10. Kris Kringle.....United States
11. Dun Che Lao Ren.....China
12. Papa Noel.....Spain
13. Vader Kersfees.....Iraq
14. Joulupukki.....Finland
15. Daidi Na Nollaig .....Ireland
16. Pere Noel.....France
17. Karacsony Apo.....Hungary
18. Kanakaloka.....Pacific Islands
19. Babbo Natale.....Italy

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED T+ / TEEN PLUS